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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/345,659	06/30/1999	JAMES A. MICHENER	PD-990066	1480

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HUGHES ELECTRONICS CORPORATION
PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION
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EXAMINER

OPSASNICK, MICHAEL N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/345,659

Applicant(s)

MICHENER

Examiner

Michael N. Opsasnick

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 103 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3,5-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaalaas et al (6226758) in view of Elia et al (5712850).

As per claims 1,5,15-19, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches “a method for switching of audio broadcasts in AC3 format to be transmitted as AES3 signal bit streams comprising determining a predetermined count at which each in the AES3 bit stream is to arrive, disabling a response to receipt of the packet to avoid outputting the data in the packet if it is received before said predetermined count has lapsed from receiving the start of a packet” as a counter in the AES decoder (Fig. 6)

“detecting if a disruption occurs while packet is being received, and accepting the packet of AC-3 information....if a disruption has been detected” as detecting a gap in the message data (col. 12 lines 31-52);

“determining if the packet comes within 10 milliseconds.....said detection” as detecting a gap within the stated sampling rate (col. 12 line 30 – col. 13 line 45 -- examiner notes that using the stated sampling rates (background), the gaps are detected within 10 milliseconds).

Gaalaas et al (6226758) does not explicitly teach the use of his system in a satellite system with uplinks, , however, Elia et al teaches transmission of tv and audio signals (in an MPEG and AES format) via satellite (Elia, col. 5 lines 1-16, col. 1 lines 15-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of audio processing to incorporate the teachings of Gaalaas into the satellite transmission system of Elia because it would advantageously provide a more efficient sample rate conversion system (Gaalaas et al, col. 2 lines 40-57) for the satellite system of Elia (col. 3 lines 40-67).

As per claim 2, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches time count (col. 12 lines 31-36)

As per claim 3, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches word count as bitword count (col. 12 lines 37-46)

As per claim 6, the combination of Gaalaas et al (6226758) in view of Elia et al (5712850) teaches “a method for controlling the status of channel status bits in multiple data streams comprises establishing agreement.....header structure” as examining the channel data (col. 2 lines 47-57)

“regenerating the channel status bits.....IRD and the decoder” as aligning the bit streams (col. 5 line 47 – col. 6 line 45); also see the protocols taught by Elia satellite system (fig’s 5-11).

As per claim 7, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches “establishing agreement.....head in an encoder” as bit status according to AES and IEC (col. 7 lines 54-67);

As per claim 8, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches “establishing agreement.....AC-3 audio stream” as CRC bit adjustment (col. 9 lines 22-34);

As per claims 9-11,13,14, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches manual and automatic adjustment, including a copy bit (col. 9 lines 35-40);

As per claim 12, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches “wherein said establishing agreement comprises setting the AC-3 audio stream channel bit to be off..... AC-3 audio stream” as CRC bit adjustment (col. 9 lines 22-34);

As per claim 20, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches “wherein said detector is operative while preparing a tape for broadcast” as to be used for tape replace (col. 1 lines 5-27);

As per claim 21, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches the scope of claim 21 as applied to claim 1 above, in a sound card entity (Fig. 2)

As per claim 22, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches a time coder reader as time stamp (Fig. 4), for playback (col. 9 lines 35-45)

As per claim 23, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches playback command (col. 9 lines 35-45)

As per claim 24, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches the size of the packet and the header as determining packet size and generating IEC 958 (col. 2 lines 35-40)

As per claim 25, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches the header, AC-3 packet, unfilled spaces, and AES card in PCM audio (as output AES in PCM format -- col. 2 lines 38-43)

As per claim 26, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches AC-3 data file (col. 1 lines 23-28)

As per claim 27, Gaalaas et al (6226758) teaches CD-Rom as CD (Fig. 1, subblock 5.27)

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3,5-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit: 26554

or faxed to:

(703) 872 9314,

(for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,

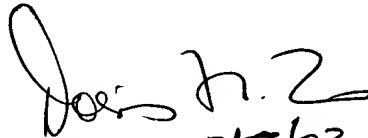
Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (703)305-4089, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached at (703)305-4827. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

mno
3/1/03


DORIS H. TO 3/5/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600